

Parental Communication & Engagement



☎ 01384 816395 ✉ info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk 🐦 @DormstonSch 🌐 <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk>

Message from Head Teacher

With our Year 7 students starting with us on Wednesday and Years 8 to 10 returning on Thursday it has been an exciting week at Dormston. It has been brilliant to see all our new and old students back in school where they belong. Thank you to all our parents/carers and students who have followed the new procedures that have been put in place. Overall it has gone very smoothly which is thanks to our staff, students and parents/carers co-operation. Over the coming weeks our practices may evolve and change to ensure we are keeping everybody safe and we will keep you informed of any changes as/when they happen.

Year 7 had a special assembly on Thursday which outlined our expectations and have already been fully immersed in the learning at Dormston School; as a year group they have settled extremely well. If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Our GCSE Exam Results were issued to our Year 11 students via post on 18 August 2020 and we would like to congratulate the Class of 2020 for all their hard work and effort. There were some really outstanding results. Progress 8 is the key indicator of overall school performance. This is calculated based on the performance of students nationally. This year there will be no national figure to compare against but using the national figure from 2019 our Progress 8 figure is +0.1 which indicates overall students made above expected progress.

For those of you not familiar with our Weekly Bulletins these are issued every week and seek to remind you of letters that have recently been sent out, what events are coming up for the week along with any general updates and reminders. We also produce a Monthly Update Sheet which shares with you all our latest news as well as what's coming up over the course of the next two months. At the moment, lots of events that would usually take place are having to be undertaken differently. We are dealing with each day/week/month as it comes at the moment so all plans are unfortunately subject to change. **Please remember the vast majority of our communication is done via email so it is imperative that we always have your correct email address and that you let us know anytime it changes.**

Head Teacher

Letters Sent Out Recently

ALL letters are now emailed home, hard copies are ONLY provided for 'Reply Slip' Letters. *Selected student only letters are given out to your child by hand or are posted directly home. The criterion for 'selected student only' opportunities are based on various factors depending on the trip and its focus. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow every student the opportunity to be involved with every activity which we understand sometimes causes disappointment. If you require more details about the selection process for any opportunity please contact the event organiser.

- Year 7 Welcome to Dormston Letter;
- Year 10 RE Revision Session Letter.

Events

EVENTS

- **Welcome to Year 7 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 8 September 2020**

Our Welcome to Year 7 Parents' Evening will be virtual this year due to social distancing requirements. Videos will be uploaded onto our website on Tuesday 8 September 2020 so please do take the time to watch these as it will contain lots of important information. A letter regarding this has been emailed to our Year 7 parents/carers.

General Reminders/Updates

- **Face Masks**

The wearing of face masks during busy periods '**at this moment in time**' is '**strongly advisable**'. We are therefore not enforcing it but we are strongly recommending it during busy periods to keep both our children and staff as safe as possible. We all need to do our best to protect each other, where it is possible for us to do so. We are aware that as is the case in general society for some students with medical conditions this may not be feasible. If this is the case please contact your child's Head of House.

- **PE Kit Reminder**

It is really important that students have access to the full range of curriculum subjects which PE forms part of. Due to current Health & Safety guidance we are not opening the PE Changing rooms. We have therefore requested that students attend school on the days they have PE in their PE Kit. This is the approach that has been taken by many other schools. We appreciate that this may not be ideal in terms of student hygiene but ask for parents/carers to support us with this.

Please note that as part of the PE kit students are allowed to wear plain black or navy tracksuit bottoms. They may wear their tracksuit bottoms throughout the whole day but it is at the discretion of the PE teacher as to whether they are allowed to wear them during the PE lesson depending on the weather and the activity the teacher has planned. Therefore, it is imperative that students also wear their shorts/skorts to school that day. Students will also be able to wear their rugby top or their school jumper over their PE polo shirt. No other garment will be allowed apart from their daily school coat in order to stay warm before/after PE lessons. May we please request that all tracksuit bottoms are as plain as possible with only small logos. If you are unsure at all please get in touch with your child's Head of House before purchasing new items. Please also note leggings are not permitted. Those students studying GCSE Dance should wear leggings underneath their tracksuit bottoms if they wish, not as a replacement.

- **Class of 2020 PROM Update**

We are aware of the current restrictions still in place regarding large gatherings. We have contacted the venue to see where we stand with our event. We will update Parents/Carers as soon as we have information. If the Prom is cancelled then we will issue full refunds for any tickets purchased. We will not be able to make any financial contribution to loss of deposits/expenses related to anything else. Due to the current advice and climate we would urge all Parents/Carers to air on the side of caution when making any significant purchases for this event where you will not be able to recoup your money should the event get cancelled. We will endeavour to keep you as up to date as possible with the situation.